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REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are active and pending in the present application. Claims 1-10 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Stallmo (US 5,875,456) in view of Baranovsky (US 5,897,661). Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Stallmo and Baranovsky further in view of Bobbitt et al. (US 20030115218). In response, Applicants provide the following remarks.

The Examiner asserts that Stallmo discloses the invention substantially as claimed but admits that Stallmo does not disclose a mirrored disk. The Examiner contends that Baranovsky discloses organizing logical clusters into mirrors and concludes: it would have been obvious to modify Stallmo based on Baranovsky "because this would provide extended storage attributes for performance and reliability."

Claim 1 recites instructions executable to perform dynamically resizing mirrored virtual disks in a RAID storage system. As described in original specification, resizing mirrors has previously been accomplished but it has previously required breaking the mirror before resizing occurs. Thus, once the mirror is restored, synchronizing the mirror is required which adversely impacts system performance. The presently claimed invention avoids this issue.

Applicants urge that Baranovsky merely recognizes that mirroring is one technique for improving reliability in storage systems. However, this general knowledge about the state of the art is not the specific, well-reasoned motivation required to establish a prima-facie case of obviousness

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under 35 USC §103. Establishing such a case requires a cogent explanation of why one of ordinary skill would realistically have been motivated to modify Stallmo in view of Baranovsky to arrive at the specific features recited in the claims. Applicants urge that Baranovsky's mention (very brief mention) of mirroring is not a realistic motivation for one of ordinary skill to modify, with a realistic expectation for success, Stallmo to dynamically resize a mirrored virtual disk as recited in claim 1.

Without a showing of the requisite motivation to modify Stallmo in view of Baranovsky, there has been no establishment of a prima facie case of obviousness. Thus, Applicants respectfully solicit reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1. The other claims with similar limitations to claim 1 and which are dependent from claim 1 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §103 of claims 1-10 and 14-16 are respectfully requested.

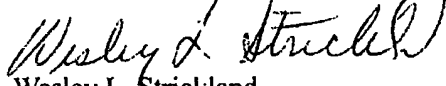
With respect to claims 11-13 the Examiner relies on Bobbitt et al. for disclosing a plurality of hosts for managing data input/output operations. Because Bobbitt et al. do not remedy the absence of the motivation to combine Stallmo and Baranovsky in the specific manner espoused by the Examiner, Applicants urge that a prima facie case of obviousness has also not been properly established with Stallmo, Baranovsky and Bobbitt et al. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §103 of claims 11-13 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants believe all claims are in condition for allowance and passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in

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connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502624 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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